

IOWA OUTDOORS

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

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1. Fish in Mississippi River Pool 12 Exceed Mercury Advisory Level
2. Green Valley State Park to Close for Deer Hunt
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FISH IN MISSISSIPPI RIVER POOL 12 EXCEED MERCURY ADVISORY LEVEL

DES MOINES – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the presence of mercury above consumption advisory levels in tissue samples from bass and walleye collected in Pool 12 of the Mississippi River.

The DNR has added the predator fish species in Pool 12 to the consumption advisory list for mercury. Individuals should consume no more than one meal per week of walleye, sauger, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, white bass or northern pike.

Every year Iowa DNR biologists collect samples of fish for laboratory analysis to determine the wholesomeness of fish for human consumption. Edible portions of these fish are analyzed by certified labs and results are compared to consumption advisory levels as identified by the DNR and Iowa Department of Public Health in the state's consumption advisory protocol. The risk-based protocol went into effect in 2006 and is based on US EPA and FDA guidance. This protocol is the basis for issuing consumption advisories for Iowa waters.

Mississippi River Pool 12 is the area between Lock and Dam 11 in Dubuque and Lock and Dam 12 at Bellevue in Jackson County. This is the seventh current consumption advisory for fish in Iowa.

Advisories in Iowa lakes include chlordane in Cedar Lake in Cedar Rapids, chlordane in Ottumwa Lagoons in Ottumwa and mercury in Nine Eagles Lake in Decatur County.

Other advisories in Iowa rivers have been issued for mercury in the Cedar River

from Floyd County north to the Minnesota border, mercury in the Upper Iowa River from the lower dam in eastern Winneshiek County upstream 24 miles and for mercury the Volga River, including the Little Volga and the North Branch Volga River from the town of Volga upstream in Clayton County.

The DNR has information on these contaminants and consumption advisories on its Fish and Fishing webpage at www.iowadnr.gov/fish/index.html then click on Fish Consumption Advisories in the navigation bar on the left.

Fish are part of a healthy diet. For information on the benefits of eating fish or what types of fish are safe to eat, visit the Iowa Department of Public Health's webpage at www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/common/pdf/enf/fish_health_issues.pdf

For more information, contact Marion Conover, chief of fisheries, at 515-281-5208.

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GREEN VALLEY STATE PARK TO CLOSE FOR DEER HUNT

CRESTON – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources will close Green Valley State Park, including access to the lake, November 17, 18 and 19, for the annual state park deer hunt. The park will reopen on Nov. 20.

The hunt is limited to 25 hunters using muzzleloaders to harvest up to 50 antlerless deer. The DNR will have additional staff on hand to patrol the park boundaries. This is the fourth year for the hunt.

“All of the hunters have attended a special safety meeting for this hunt and we are expecting the hunt to go just as well as in the past, said Greg Haley, park manager at Green Valley. “We hope to harvest as close to 50 female deer as we can and do it in a safe and efficient manner. We have had three successful hunts and we are hoping this year’s hunt will be just as good”

“We are attempting to maintain a balance in the deer herd and this has shown to be a great management tool for state parks,” said park ranger Alan Carr. “Research is showing that if you stop these hunts completely the deer population tends to go back up rather quickly. The number of deer that are targeted for removal may change from year to year depending on the research. The final decision is made by the depredation biologist.”

A complete list of state park depredation deer hunts is available in the *Iowa Hunting and Trapping Regulations* booklet.

For more information, contact Haley or Carr at 641-782-5131.

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VOLUNTEERS OFFERED OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE THANKS

DES MOINES —With the month of Thanksgiving upon us, Keepers of the Land, the volunteer program with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), offers many statewide opportunities for volunteers to give thanks for our natural resources.

- **Prairie Management Opportunity:** Officials at Volga River State Recreation Area, near Fayette, are seeking volunteers to assist with prairie restoration activities including removing brush and invasive species. Tools and on-site training will be provided. For more information contact Tom Halverson at 563-425-4161.
- **Interpretive Center Greeter Opportunity:** Officials at Mines of Spain State Recreation Area, located in Dubuque, are seeking volunteers to greet visitors, answer questions, and provide center tours at the E.B Lyons Interpretive Center. For more information contact Wayne Buchholtz at 563-556-0620.
- **Invasive Species Removal Opportunity:** Officials at Lake Darling State Park, near Brighton, are seeking volunteers to assist with removing various invasive plant species throughout the park. Tools and on-site training will be provided. For more information contact Jeff Hildebrand or Merrill Lucas at 319-694-2323.
- **Wood Working and Construction Opportunities:** Officials at Lake Manawa State Park, at Council Bluffs, are seeking volunteers to assist with various wood working and construction projects including: repairing and building picnic tables and constructing signs and kiosks. For more information contact Daniel Jacobs at 712-366-0220.
- **Sorting, Updating, and Organizing Project Opportunities:** Officials at the Air Quality Bureau, in Urbandale, are seeking volunteers to assist with various projects that require sorting, updating, and organizing including projects related to air emissions inventories, air quality documents, and permit applications. On-site training will be provided. For more information contact Jason Marcel at 515-281-4873.

Find more information about volunteer opportunities and events at www.keepersoftheland.org.

For more information, contact Merry Rankin at (515) 281-0878 or at merry.rankin@dnr.iowa.gov

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